

Senate Capital Budget Committee

Sonja Caldwell 271-2117

HB 25-A, making appropriations for capital improvements.

Hearing Date: May 18, 2021

Time Opened: 10:00 a.m.

Time Closed: 10:04 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Reagan, Bradley, Daniels and Watters

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator D'Allesandro

Bill Analysis: This bill makes appropriations for capital improvements for the biennium and extends certain lapse dates for previous appropriations.

Sponsors:

Rep. Graham

Who supports the bill: Rep. John Graham, David Campbell (NH Northcoast Railroad), Eric Pauer, Rep. John Cloutier

Who opposes the bill: No one

Who is neutral on the bill: No one

Summary of testimony presented:

Rep. Graham

- Rep. Graham introduced the bill and stated that he did not have much to add since the committee had already heard from all of the agencies and Chris Shea went over the House passed capital budget in detail.
- He did want to note that the House committee is concerned about the amount of money we are spending on IT through bonding. It currently makes up 28% of this capital budget. He said the legislature is bonding software that may not last 20 years.
- He also noted there is the section about projects that should be funded, if possible, if additional federal funds become available. The top three House priorities for those items are the forensic psychiatric hospital, the Littleton campus for the community college and the tramway replacement. He said any other projects that we can bring forward would also be appreciated. Commissioner Goulet mentioned that any multiyear projects we can fund with federal dollars would enable us to do more in future biennia.

Senator Reagan said he shared Rep. Graham's concern about the tremendous cost of what might be temporary software.

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Date Hearing Report completed: May 19, 2021